

A.D. 27.] LESSON IV. [Jan. 27

FORGIVENESS AND HEALING.

Mark 2. 1-12. Memory verses, 10-12.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases. Psa. 103. 3.

OUTLINE.

1. Forgiving Iniquities, v. 1-5.
2. Healing Diseases, v. 6-12.

TIME.—27 A.D.

PLACE.—Capernaum.

CONNECTING LINKS.—The story of the life of Jesus runs continuously from the last lesson into the present one. He went on with his first preaching tour, till, interrupted by the thronging multitudes raised by the story of the leper, he retired into the deserts for seclusion and prayer. At last he returned to Capernaum, and here our lesson begins.

EXPLANATIONS.—*It was noised*—It was reported throughout the city. *In the house*—Either his own house, where he had made a home for his mother, or into Peter's house. *Sick of the palsy*—Or smitten with paralysis. *Uncovered the roof*—Either opened a connecting trap-door, or removed the court awnings, or made an opening through the flat house-top by breaking up the tiles. If Jesus was in the court the second is the probable way; if in an upper room, either of the others. *speak blasphemies*—That is, utter words which are direct profanations of God's holiness.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. *Forgiving Iniquities.*
What evidence of the great popularity of Jesus in this lesson?
What at this time seems to have been his one purpose?
For what purpose only did he perform miracles?
What was it moved Jesus to say to the palsied man, "Son, thy sins," etc.?
How had great faith been shown?
What makes this day specially important in the history of his life-work?
2. *Healing Diseases.*
What criticism was passed upon him by some present?
How did he now prove his right to assume power over spiritual disease?
What power over human hearts did Jesus also display?
With whom did Jesus claim equality by proving his power to forgive sins?
What is forgiveness?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Christ in Capernaum could not be hid. Christ in the heart cannot be. A heart filled with Christ always is a centre of holy influence.

Four brought one. They knew no discouragement. They had a definite purpose. They accomplished it. They were not responsible for their friend's cure. They left him with Jesus. What an example for us to follow!

Christ gave more than they expected. He always does.

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Learn what you can of a Jewish house, and how all this could have happened.
2. Find other instances of the cavilling attitude of the scribes.
3. Give three characteristics of the four friends.
4. Was this man both healed and forgiven? Prove it.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

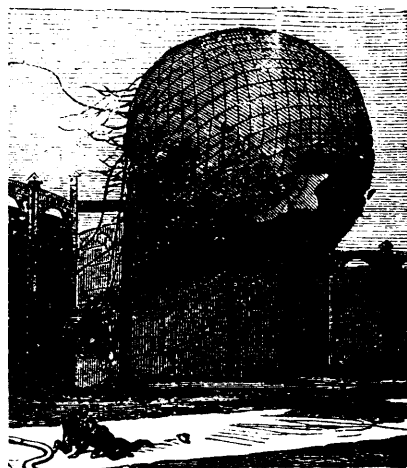
1. To what place did Jesus return? To Capernaum.
2. What happened as soon as his presence was known? A crowd surrounded his house.
3. What interrupted his preaching? A man let down through the roof.
4. What did Christ do for him? Forgave him and healed him.
5. In what character did Christ thus become known? As the forgiver of sins.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Forgiveness.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

5. How did Jesus Christ show that he was a teacher sent from God?
By performing signs and wonders such as could be performed only by the power of God.

John iii. 2. Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these signs that thou doest, except God be with him.



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